

MAINE STATE AQUARIUM JOB DESCRIPTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Seasonal Aquarist

Job Description: The position of Seasonal Aquarist is a full-time, seasonal position requiring focus on marine specimen collection, care, and treatment including (but not limited to) field collections, transport, and exhibit (habitat) set-up and maintenance. Aquarists will be responsible for the daily cleaning and water quality testing of exhibit tanks to include all floor gallery tanks and assigned holding tanks, the observation of, food prep & feeding, and handling of all aquarium specimens, the maintenance of all logbooks, the replacement of degraded exhibit soils and plants, the treatment and/or disposal of sick or expired specimens, and the maintenance and organization of behind-the-scene areas. Aquarists will also be responsible for supporting education staff with the supervision of 2 public touch tank areas, with the facilitation of several daily species presentations, and public tours through the aquariums back stage areas and wetlab, and with overnight camp programs. *

Availability:

- Applicants must be available to participate in mandatory training and begin at start of season (May).
- Applicants must be available to work a 5 day on, 2 day off schedule throughout season and be flexible to necessary scheduling changes. This will include weekends and occasional overnight work.
- Applicants must be able to commit to 40 hours a week (full-time, seasonal)
- Applicants must be available to work either a May-August or May-Oct schedule

Essential Functions:

- Enthusiastically represent MSA by displaying positive attitude, high levels of energy, and a commitment to high standards and job quality
- Participate in the collection and care of aquarium species and the maintenance of their exhibit and/or holding areas meeting the highest standards of safety and handling protocols.
- Assist with the education of all visiting parties about marine animals, habitats, fisheries, and resource research and management related to the Gulf of Maine and specific exhibit areas
- Maintain and enforce safety of all guests and marine animals as set forth in facility protocols

Typical Duties:

- Following daily set-up and cleaning procedures
- Assisting with staff & program scheduling
- Performing daily water quality tests on all required exhibit areas
- Performing daily exhibit tank maintenance, and conducting daily food prep and feedings
- Maintaining daily husbandry and maintenance records in appropriate logbooks
- Recording observations of animals, discussing exhibit/animal problems with supervisor
- Scheduling and facilitating specimen field collections & pick-ups
- Performing daily extemporaneous public presentations on animal specimens and other designated topics
- Assisting with the supervision of touch tank areas and answering guest questions
- Leading group tours in back stage areas
- Assisting with facilitation of overnight camp programs
- Participation in outreach events and activities, which may include transport and set-up of travel touch tanks and wearing costumes
- Maintaining exhibit information panels and viewing areas
- Supervising volunteer staff in backstage areas
- Communicating effectively and openly with all staff members

***Lead Aquarist position will require additional responsibilities and duties, as assigned.**

Minimum requirements:

- Relevant college level coursework and/or degree (biological, veterinary, captive care, or aquatic sciences)
- Relevant work or volunteer experience specific to job description (preferably in a nature center, zoo, or aquarium setting)
- Ability to handle and transport specimens, exhibit props and substrate, equipment and conduct field collections
- Must be comfortable with and able to handle aquarium specimens-including having to spend often long periods interacting with cold, saltwater
- Ability to work with chemicals including cleaning supplies and animal medicines
- Demonstration of ability to give positive public presentations through relevant public speaking experience, particularly to diverse audience groups
- Ability to work comfortably with and around children of various ages, often in large groups
- Ability to work safely and comfortably in outdoor settings with variable conditions as well as indoor settings like classrooms and behind-the-scene areas that may be wet and/or slippery
- Demonstration of responsibility & self-initiative with minimal direction
- Demonstration of positive coworker and supervisor relationships, including ability to handle work related issues

- Demonstration of positive customer service skills
- Demonstration of background knowledge in relevant subject areas, and willingness to learn new information
- Demonstration of leadership abilities and self-confidence with the ability to balance this within a team
- Demonstration of ability to handle fast-paced, stressful, and dynamic situations with confidence and flexibility
- Able to perform functions of the job while meeting essential physical requirements including:
 - *Ability to sit, stand, and/or walk for prolonged periods of time. Climbing may also be necessary in tank areas.*
 - *Ability to frequently lift and/or move up to 50 lbs and occasionally lift/and or move up to 100 lbs with assistance*
 - *Ability to speak clearly, concisely, and effectively to co-workers and guests, often using mechanical devices such as voice projectors and/or microphones & speakers.*
 - *Ability to work in an environment with moderate noise levels and clearly hear safety alarms, etc.*
 - *Ability to see with acuity within 100 ft for safety reasons, particularly when in field or off-site settings*
- Valid driving license and approved driving forms for off-site collections and excursions. Out of state applicants must be able to provide a certified DMV record, at applicant expense, if employment is offered
- Current CPR & First-Aid certification by start of employment

For questions, please contact Aimee Hayden-Roderiques at aquarium@maine.gov or 207-633-9542